

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

Calgary

September 26, 2016

Audio recorded September 22, 2016

News story #1 Two people dead in Calgary shooting

(0:09)

Setting the Scene



Calgary Police on the scene in the Redstone Manor neighbourhood. (Mike Symington) (CBC file photo)

A man and a woman were found shot in a car parked in a garage in Redstone Manor. The man was dead, and the woman later died in hospital. The police say that the woman was connected to criminal groups. They don't yet know who shot the couple.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you think Calgary is a safe city? Why or why not?

What do you know about gun crime in Canada? Do you think it's higher or lower than other countries?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

targeted (adj.)	directed at a specific person or group
gang (n.)	a criminal group
related (adj.)	connected
passenger (n.)	a traveller who is not driving the vehicle (bus, car, train, etc.)
rushed (to) (v.)	taken to a place quickly
life-threatening (adj.)	something that can cause death
networks (n.)	systems of people or groups that are connected and work together
random (adj.)	not chosen or planned
suspect (n.)	a person who may be guilty of a crime

1. Mr. Smith overslept on the day of his trip. He _____ the airport and, luckily, he didn't miss his plane.
2. The safest online password is not a name or common word. It is a _____ group of letters and numbers.
3. Police say that most violent crimes like shootings and murder are connected to _____ problems, not the problems of regular people.
4. While many young people get the flu and then get healthy again, it can be a _____ illness for older people whose bodies aren't as strong.
5. TV advertisements that use animation and happy music are usually _____ towards children.
6. There is only one _____ in this robbery so far: the neighbour's son, who also robbed a house eight months ago.
7. Some people think that alcohol is _____ to certain kinds of crime, while others don't think there is a connection.
8. The local food banks have great _____ of volunteers who come and help at Christmas, when it's very busy.
9. In yesterday's bus crash, most people were able to get out safely, but one _____ broke her arm in the accident.

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2iptcz

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity [0:09]

True or False

Read the following sentences. As you listen, label the statements below as *True* or *False*.
Answers are in the appendix.

1. ☐ The shooting took place on Thursday night.
2. ☐ The police went to the Redstone Manor neighbourhood.
3. ☐ The police arrived in the morning.
4. ☐ The man was in the driver's seat of the car.
5. ☐ The woman was 34 years old.
6. ☐ The woman was alive when the police found her.
7. ☐ The man, woman, and boy were rushed to the hospital.
8. ☐ The woman had a son who was five years old.
9. ☐ The woman had never been connected to crime or criminals.
10. ☐ The police believe that the shooting was planned.

Food for Thought

What do you think the police will do next? What do you think the family will do next?

News story #2

Empty Banff tour bus kills woman and injures man

Setting the Scene



The tour bus in the Bow River in Banff National Park. (Dan McGarvey/CBC) (CBC file photo)

In Banff National Park, there are many scenic lookouts on the highway. Visitors to the park will often stop on the highway to enjoy the views and take pictures. Last week, a bus accidentally killed one person and injured another person when it rolled on top of them.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you visited any tourist destinations in Alberta?

If a visitor from Canada came to your country, what tourist sites would you recommend?

Do you like to travel alone, or with a tour group? What are the pros and cons of each?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. After the flood, the farmers' vegetable crops were **critically** damaged.
 - a. could become a disaster
 - b. could be disliked
2. The child fell down the stairs, but luckily, he was not **injured**.
 - a. upset
 - b. hurt
3. Banff is a popular tourist site in the summer. I was surprised that the hotel had an **empty** room.
 - a. with no people/things inside
 - b. with no widows
4. On the hike, she dropped an apple. It **rolled** all the way to the bottom of the hill.
 - a. moved by turning over and over
 - b. cut into two pieces
5. On weekends, you can see lots of people fishing on the **embankment** of Bow Lake.
 - a. a place to borrow money
 - b. a wall built on a lake or river
6. An elevator broke with three people inside. Luckily, firefighters arrived on the **scene** quickly.
 - a. the place where something happened
 - b. the time when something happened
7. Police recommend that families lock their doors and windows, or they may be **victims** of robbery.
 - a. people who commit a crime
 - b. people who are hurt from a crime
8. Most visitors to the beach love to swim, but some are happy to just sit on the **shore** and relax.
 - a. a type of boat
 - b. the land on the edge of a lake or sea

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2jgnl0

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity [1:04]

Multiple Choice

Read the sentences below. While you listen to the news story, circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. One person is dead / alive and another is critically injured after a bus rolled down an embankment.
2. The man and woman were taking a picnic / pictures in front of the bus.
3. The sixty-three / fifty-three –year-old woman was killed.
4. The woman died in the park / hospital.
5. The man was fifty-five / fifty-nine years old.
6. The man was taken to the hotel / hospital.
7. When people came to help, the bus was on the road / in the river.
8. The accident was at the Castle Mountain / Cabin Mountain Lookout.
9. The lookout is between Lake Lapeche / Lake Louise and Banff.
10. The reason why the bus started moving is not clear / claimed.

Food for Thought

How do you think the accident happened? Are traffic accidents common in your home country? Do you think roads in Canada are safer or more dangerous than in your country?

News story #3 Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt to divorce

Setting the Scene



Angelina Jolie (*left*) and Brad Pitt (*right*) (Kevin Winter/Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are both Hollywood actors. They are also famous for doing charity work. They are married and have six children together. Jolie has filed for divorce from Pitt.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever seen Jolie's movies? Have you ever seen Pitt's movies?

Who are the most famous actors in your country?

Jolie and Pitt are often discussed in tabloids and gossip magazines. What do you think of these magazines? Do you ever read them?

Vocabulary

Matching

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right. One answer has been completed for you. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	splitting up (v.)	a) paid killers
_____	filed (v.)	b) being alone
_____	divorce (n.)	c) gave a document to a court/organization
_____	adopted (adj.)	d) businesses or organizations
_____	biological (adj.)	e) cared for by parents who aren't the child's own
<u>a</u>	assassins (n.)	f) formally
_____	rival (adj.)	g) ending a relationship
_____	agencies (n.)	h) trying to be better than another person/group
_____	officially (adv.)	i) related though birth
_____	privacy (n.)	j) the end of a marriage

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

power couple – a romantic couple who have good careers and a good relationship

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2juomd

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity [1:48]

Short Answer

First read the questions below. Then listen to the audio and answer the questions while you listen. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who filed for the divorce?
2. What did Jolie's lawyer say was the reason for the divorce?
3. How many children do Pitt and Jolie have together?
4. Are all of the children different ages? Why or why not?
5. Are all of the children biological? Why not?
6. What is the film "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" about?
7. How many years have Pitt and Jolie been a couple? (When did they first get together?)
8. When did they get married?
9. Have Jolie or Pitt been married before?
10. What do both sides want right now?

Food for thought

Hollywood actors are not only known for big romances and weddings, but also divorces. Can you think of another famous couple whose relationship was in the media? Do you think this kind of news should be in the media? Do you think Jolie and Pitt will get privacy?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	SEPTEMBER 26 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi I'm Shannon Scott and you're listening to Learning English with the CBC for Friday September 21st.	0:00
Story 1	Two people are dead after what police are calling a "targeted, gang related shooting" in Calgary's north-east Tuesday night. Police were called to a home in Redstone Manor around 8 o'clock that evening. That's when officers found a 38-year-old man dead in the front passenger seat of a car in the home's garage. A 34-year-old woman was found in the driver's seat of the car. She was rushed to hospital with serious life-threatening injuries. We later learned she had died. Her five year old son was in the backseat of the car. He was not hurt in the incident. Police say the woman had known connections to organized criminal networks in Calgary. They believe the shooting was not random, and continue to search for suspects.	0:09
Story 2	One person is dead and another critically injured after an empty tour bus rolled down an embankment in Banff National Park on Wednesday. A man and a woman were standing in front of the bus taking pictures, when it started rolling and hit them. A 53-year-old woman died at the scene. A 55-year-old man was critically injured and taken to hospital. The bus was found in the river. The victims were found next to it on the shore. The incident happened at the Castle Mountain Lookout. That's along the Trans-Canada Highway between Lake Louise and Banff. It's not clear why the bus started moving on its own.	1:04
Story 3	And Hollywood's most famous power couple is splitting up. Angelina Jolie has filed for divorce from her husband Brad Pitt. Jolie's lawyer says she is divorcing Pitt for "the health of the family". The couple has six children ... Maddox, Zahara, Shiloh, Pax, and twins Vivienne and Knox. Three are adopted, three are biological. The pair met in 2004 on the set of the film "Mr. and Mrs. Smith". The film is about a married couple, both assassins, who work for rival agencies. Pitt and Jolie officially became a couple in 2005 and married just over two years ago. This was a third marriage for Jolie and the second for Pitt. Both sides have asked for privacy at this time.	1:48

Answer keys

News story 1: Two people dead in Calgary shooting

Vocabulary

1. Mr. Smith overslept on the day of his trip. He rushed to the airport and, luckily, he didn't miss his plane.
2. The safest online password is not a names or common word. It is a random group of letters and numbers.
3. Police say that most violent crimes like shootings and murder are connected to gang problems, not the problems of regular people.
4. While many young people get the flu and then get healthy again, it can be a life-threatening illness for older people whose bodies aren't as strong.
5. TV advertisements that use animation and happy music are usually targeted to children.
6. There is only one suspect in this robbery so far: the neighbour's son, who also robbed a house eight months ago.
7. Some people think that alcohol is related to certain kinds of crime, while others don't think there is a connection.
8. The local food banks have great networks of volunteers who come and help at Christmas, when it's very busy.
9. In yesterday's bus crash, most people were able to get out safely, but one passenger broke her arm in the accident.

Listening

1. F The shooting took place on Thursday night.
2. T The police went to the Redstone Manor neighbourhood.
3. F The police arrived in the morning.
4. F The man was in the driver's seat of the car.
5. T The woman was 34 years old.
6. T The woman was alive when the police found her.
7. F The man, woman, and boy were rushed to the hospital.
8. T The woman had a son who was five years old.
9. F The woman had never been connected to crime or criminals.
10. T The police believe that the shooting was planned.

News story #2

Empty Banff tour bus kills woman and injures man

Vocabulary

1. After the flood, the farmers' vegetable crops were **critically** damaged.
a. could become a disaster
b. could be disliked
2. The child fell down the stairs, but luckily, he was not **injured**.
a. upset
b. hurt
3. Banff is a popular tourist site in the summer. I was surprised that the hotel had an **empty** room.
a. with no people/things inside
b. with no widows
4. On the hike, she dropped an apple. It **rolled** all the way to the bottom of the hill.
a. moved by turning over and over
b. cut into two pieces
5. On weekends, you can see lots of people fishing on the **embankment** of Bow Lake.
a. a place to borrow money
b. a wall built on a lake or river
6. An elevator broke with three people inside. Luckily, firefighters arrived on the **scene** quickly.
a. the place where something happened
b. the time when something happened
7. Police recommend that families lock their doors and windows, or they may be **victims** of robbery.
a. people who commit a crime
b. people who are hurt from a crime
8. Most visitors to the beach love to swim, but some are happy to just sit on the **shore** and relax.
a. a type of boat
b. the land on the edge of a lake or sea

Listening

1. One person is **dead / alive** and another is critically injured after a bus rolled down an embankment.

2. The man and woman were taking a picnic / pictures in front of the bus.
3. The sixty-three / fifty-three –year-old woman was killed.
4. The woman died in the park / hospital.
5. The man was fifty-five / fifty-nine years old.
6. The man was taken to the hotel / hospital.
7. When people came to help, the bus was on the road / in the river.
8. The accident was at the Castle Mountain / Cabin Mountain Lookout.
9. The lookout is between Lake Lapeche / Lake Louise and Banff.
10. The reason why the bus started moving is not clear / claimed.

News story #3 Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt to divorce

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>a</u>	splitting up (v.)	a) paid killers
<u>c</u>	filed (v.)	b) being alone
<u>i</u>	divorce (n.)	c) gave a document to a court/organization
<u>e</u>	adopted (adj.)	d) businesses or organizations
<u>i</u>	biological (adj.)	e) cared for by parents who aren't the child's own
<u>a</u>	assassins (n.)	f) formally
<u>h</u>	rival (adj.)	g) ending a relationship
<u>d</u>	agencies (n.)	h) trying to be better than another person/group
<u>f</u>	officially (adv.)	i) related though birth
<u>b</u>	privacy (n.)	j) the end of a marriage

Listening

1. Who filed for the divorce?
Angelina Jolie
2. What did Jolie's lawyer say was the reason for the divorce?
"for the health of the family"
3. How many children did Pitt and Jolie have together?
6
4. Are all of the children different ages? Why or why not?
No – two are twins, so they are the same age
5. Are all of the children biological? Why not?
No – three are adopted
6. What is the film "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" about?
A married couple who both work as assassins for rival agencies
7. For how many years have Pitt and Jolie been a couple?
12
8. When did they get married?
2014
9. Have Jolie or Pitt been married before?
Yes – this was Jolie's third marriage and Pitt's second
10. What do both sides want right now?
privacy